

Delaware State Police Investigate Fatal Crash Involving Tractor Trailer- Newark

Newark, DE- Delaware State Police are investigating a fatal motor vehicle crash involving a tractor trailer that occurred early Sunday morning.

On January 30, 2022, at approximately 4:04 a.m., a 2017 Ford Focus operated by **John D. White, 58, of Effingham, New Hampshire**, was traveling southbound on Interstate 95 (I-95) in the right thru lane at speeds below the posted speed limit. At the same time, a 2020 Freightliner Tractor/Trailer operated by a 37-year-old Newark man was traveling in the right thru lane approaching the Ford from the rear. Due to the slower moving vehicle ahead in the right-thru lane, the driver of the Freightliner changed lanes and entered the center-right lane to move past the slower passenger vehicle. After changing lanes, the Freightliner began approaching the rear of the Ford from the center-right lane. Moments later, White merged into the center-right lane into the path of the Freightliner. The truck driver was unable to avoid the rear-end collision, resulting in the front right bumper striking the rear center of the Focus. The vehicles continued traveling into the right thru lane than the right exit lane to SR-896. The Freightliner followed the damaged Ford as it coasted onto the exit ramp from I-95 to northbound SR-896, where it came to a controlled stop in the right shoulder.

A 56-year-old Richmond, Virginia woman was seated in the front seat of the Ford Focus. She and White were not properly restrained. As a result of the collision, the female sustained life-threatening injuries. She was transported to a nearby

hospital, where she died a short time later. Identification is pending notification to next of kin.

The 37-year-old Newark man was properly restrained and was uninjured in the collision.

After the initial investigation, John D. White was charged with the following crimes:

- Operation of a Vehicle Causing Death of Another Person
- Driving without a Valid Driver License
- Improper Lane Change
- Failure to Signal Lane Change

White was arraigned in the Justice of the Peace Court #11 and committed to Howard R. Young Correctional Institution on a \$1,500.00 secured bond.

The ramp from southbound I-95 to northbound SR-896 was closed for approximately 4-hours during the on-scene investigation.

The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit continues to investigate this collision. Anyone with information is asked to contact Sgt. Dermot Alexander at 302.365.8484. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at <http://www.delaware.crimestoppers.com>.

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of a crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll-free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1-800-842-8461). You may also email the Victim Services Unit at DSP_VictimServicesMail@delaware.gov

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